GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2119
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2003
KILLINGS OF MINORITIES IN J & K
BALIRAM

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted an enquiry into the killings of 24 Kashmiri Pandits at Nadi-Margh in March 2003;

(b) if so, the number of persons found guilty and the action being taken against them; and

(c) the action plan of the Government to ensure that such carnages do not re-occur?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D.SWAMI)

(a) & (b): As per the report of the State Government ofJ &K, after the incident of Nadimarg in March 23/24, 2003 leading to the massacre of24 Kashmiri pandits, a criminal case was registered at concerned Police Station regarding the incident.Following investigation by the Police, the case has been challenged in the count of law against 8 persons involved in the incident. In addition a departmental inquiry was also initiated by the J&K Police in respect of Police personnel who were deployed for guard duty at the minority picket at Nadimarg. As a consequence to the findings of departmental inquiry, 7 police constables who were on guard duty on the day of incident have been dismissed/discharged from service.

(c): The Government, jointly with the State Government, has adopted a multi-pronged approach, to contain cross border terrorism perpetrated by the pro Pak terrorist outfits/Pak ISI in Jammu & Kashmir, which includes, inter-alia, strengthening border management and multi-tired and multi-model deployment along with International Border/LoC and near the ever changing infiltration routes to check infiltration, as well as pro-active action against terrorists within J&K including operations in remote hilly and forested pockets; measures for protection of remote, scattered and minority populations as well as protection of vital installations, public buildings and religious shrines; gearing up intelligence machinery; greater functional integration through an institutional framework of Operation Groups and Intelligence Groups of the UHQ at all levels, improved technology, weapons and equipment for security forces, and action as per law against over-ground supporters of the terrorists.

The strategies, tactics and dynamic security forces deployment to counter the terrorists are constantly reviewed, refined and monitored at various levels in the State and the Central Government including the two unified Headquarters at Jammu and Srinagar.